

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2001
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Linda Steinman
Bernie Heier

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2001

MOTION: Heier moved and Steinman seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of June 5, 2001. Heier, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2001-178 from County Attorney, \$1,442.33 from Microcomputer Fund for One (1) Laser Printer (Exhibit A)
- B. Request to Place Commissioners' Award of Excellence Plaques in County-City Building Hallway (Exhibit B)
- C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Breakfast Meeting Schedule

Hudkins arrived at the meeting.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Heier, Steinman, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

3 PUBLIC LAND TRUST - Terry Genrich, Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Manager; Glenn Johnson, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District General Manager; Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director; Art Thompson, Cooper Foundation; Dan Ludwig, Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee President

Terry Genrich, Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Manager, distributed copies of *Report on Proposed Agreement Between City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District for Expansion of Wilderness Park and Protection of Other Flood Plains* (Exhibit C). He said the proposal to develop a public land trust for land conservation in Lincoln and Lancaster County was recently presented at the City Parks Forum in Louisville, Kentucky and feedback was positive. A public/private land trust was also suggested. Genrich said an application for funding in the amount of \$35,000 has been submitted, with \$4,800 earmarked to fund assistance from the Trust for Public Lands in developing the public/private land trust.

Campbell said she is very interested in this concept and said “we need to be visionary”. She said the County Board and the NRD may need to accept initial responsibility for the land in order for “people fifty years from now to enjoy a park”.

Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director, noted that the Parks and Recreation Foundation is interested in assuming a role in developing a private land trust.

Workman said he recently attended a National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference and said county boards are stepping forward on public lands in a big way, even to the extent of issuing bonds that have been approved by the voters.

Heier said he is reluctant to assume ownership of parks that are within city limits and said he is concerned that the County’s role will only be financial.

Genrich said the interlocal agreement could include a “trigger” that would turn land over to the Parks and Recreation Department once land is annexed by the City.

Campbell suggested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board assist with development of this criteria. She said she is more concerned at this point with land that is outside of the city limits, such as the Stevens Creek Basin. Campbell said she is concerned that “unless we put a mechanism in place, opportunities will fritter away from us”.

Workman said the public is concerned with the condemnation issue. He noted that in Montana funds are raised through private donations to reimburse farmers and ranchers for the loss of tax base.

Genrich said the next step is development of a draft interlocal agreement.

Hudkins suggested incorporation of the County's villages.

Campbell noted that the County Board meets with Village Clerks and Boards in the fall and suggested that a presentation be given to that group.

In response to a question from Campbell, Glenn Johnson, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) General Manager, said his group is also receptive and has discussed suitable areas within the county.

Board consensus to proceed with drafting of an interlocal agreement for a public land trust.

Heier expressed concern that wetlands are being filled in on the west side of 70th Street, between Arbor Road and Salt Creek.

Glenn Johnson said this is allowable because the land is in the floodway fringe, not the floodway.

Campbell said a moratorium on development in the floodplain was discussed, but not enacted.

4 REQUEST FOR BAILIFF TRAINING - District Court Judge Earl Witthoff

District Court Judge Earl Witthoff said his bailiff has resigned and requested 3-4 weeks of training time for her replacement. He explained that the request for extra training time is due to the scheduled start of a murder trial three days after the new bailiff assumes duties and said errors could result in a mistrial. Judge Witthoff also stated that the recent change to a general docket requires the new bailiff to learn three different dockets simultaneously.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to grant the request for additional training time. Steinman, Hudkins, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2001-178 from County Attorney, \$1,442.33 from Microcomputer Fund for One (1) Laser Printer (Exhibit A)

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to approve the microcomputer request and to authorize Dave Kroecker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, to determine the appropriate fund. Steinman, Heier, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Request to Place Commissioners' Award of Excellence Plaques in County-City Building Hallway (Exhibit B)

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to forward the request to the Public Building Commission. Steinman, Heier, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board recommended limiting placement of plaques to the Commissioners' Award of Excellence and Mayor's Award of Excellence. A preference was also indicated for locating the plaques in the public hallway of the County-City Building.

C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Breakfast Meeting Schedule

The Board scheduled attendance as follows:

June 26, 2001 - Workman, Heier
July 31, 2001 - Campbell, Heier
August 28, 2001 - Campbell, Newly Appointed Commissioner
September 25, 2001 - Heier, Workman
October 30, 2001 - Hudkins, Newly Appointed Commissioner
November 27, 2001 - Heier, Campbell

5 PENDING LITIGATION - Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:15 a.m. for discussion of pending litigation. Hudkins, Heier, Steinman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:20 a.m. Steinman, Workman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

6 ACTION ITEMS

A. Agenda Items for Meeting with Lincoln Public Schools and City of Lincoln, June 25, 2001

The Board proposed that the following be scheduled on the agenda:

- O Presentation on the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Program
- O Presentation on the new Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center

The Board requested that follow-up discussion of the need for exchange of information on juveniles be scheduled with Sheryl Schrepf, Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Director; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; Doug Evans, Lincoln School Board President; Phil Schoo, Superintendent of Schools; and Becky Wild, Director of Student Services.

- B. Authorize Records and Information Management to Hire Temporary Employee

Brian Pillard, Records & Information Manager, appeared and explained that a part-time Stores Clerk recently had back surgery and suffered complications and said it is not known when he will be able to return to work. He requested authorization to hire a temporary employee to fill this vacancy, noting a temporary worker from Manpower is currently being utilized.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize Brian Pillard, Records & Information Manager, to utilize temporary services through Manpower until a temporary employee can be hired. Heier, Hudkins, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Request from Prepaid Legal Services to Meet with County Board

The Board denied the request.

- B. Letter from Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee Regarding Beltway and Comprehensive Plan

Dan Ludwig, Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) President, appeared to answer questions regarding his proposal to:

1. Initiate an EAC subcommittee to provide the County Board with information concerning the long-term effects of ecosystem functions of the landscape for each Beltway option
2. Initiate an EAC subcommittee to provide the County Board with ecologically related recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan

Heier asked why it has taken the EAC so long to come forward with a proposal, noting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete.

Ludwig said he does not have an answer, but said the EAC has been focusing on Wilderness Park. He said he believes the EAC can still provide valuable information to the Board, either before or after a decision is made on a route.

Campbell indicated that she and Commissioner Heier have declared a conflict of interest on the beltway selection and said the decision on whether to seek additional information is up to the other members of the Board.

Steinman noted that the EIS included ecological concerns and said she is not sure the EAC could offer any new information.

Ludwig said the EAC has begun to prioritize and place values on items included in the EIS matrix. He said the EAC can also encourage conservation easements through a public land trust.

Steinman expressed concern that it may politicize the beltway decision even more if the EAC weighs in beforehand.

Workman and Hudkins indicated that they would be willing to consider any information the EAC might provide, but would not want the EAC to try to select a route.

Campbell said, with regards to the Comprehensive Plan, she believes the EAC should initiate a study and participate in that process.

C. Salary for Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Campbell said Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk, has accepted the position of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer at a salary of \$54,000, with a review of the job description and job performance after six months.

Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk, asked that the transfer of duties take place June 28, 2001 in consideration of the property valuation protest process and payroll for the new fiscal year.

The Board concurred and asked Eagan and Workman to work with Thorpe and Medcalf on transition and development of a work schedule.

Hudkins asked whether the Board still wants the Human Services Division to be located in the office space directly across the hall from the County Board of Commissioners Offices.

Norm Agena, County Assessor, appeared and said he would like to retain this space for the Personal Property Division.

The Board asked Eagan to tour the space with Agena and Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, and try to resolve the issue. A recommendation will be then be forwarded to the Public Building Commission.

D. Letter to Douglas and Sarpy County Boards Regarding Attorney Case Management System

Eagan distributed a letter draft (Exhibit D).

MOTION: Heier moved and Steinman seconded approval of the letter to the Douglas and Sarpy County Boards. Heier, Steinman, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

8 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Board scheduled a Staff Meeting immediately following the County Board of Commissioners Meeting on June 12, 2001.

9 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting. Steinman, Hudkins, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk